

REINFORCED CATHETER DEVICE, CATHETER STOCK, AND METHODS
AND APPARATUS FOR MAKING SAME

Abstract of the Invention

A reinforced catheter stock and a reinforced catheter are provided, along with an apparatus and methods for making same. The reinforced catheter stock includes a length of cylindrical tubing and a reinforcement member. During manufacture, the cylindrical tubing is continuously advanced from a pay-out spool to a take-up spool while the reinforcement member is wrapped onto the cylindrical tubing to form the reinforced catheter stock. Thereafter, first and second outer finish coatings are applied to the reinforced catheter stock. The coated catheter stock is cut to desired lengths to form multiple reinforced catheters. A portion of each catheter is ground to provide a soft tip portion having a desired flexibility and finish. One or more marking bands may be disposed near the distal end of each catheter.